

TENNIS WALES LIMITED (TW)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 14th MAY 2022
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

PRESENT:

Anthony Phillips – Incoming Director TW
Baroness Amanda Sater – Tennis Wales President
Barry Cawte – Tennis Wales (TW) Exiting Chair
Bethan Lewis – Director TW
Claire Ewing – Sport Wales
Graham Webster – Company Member Cardiff LTC
Glyn Walters – South Wales Committee Member
Hannah Ward – Incoming Director TW
James Armstrong – Director TW
Janet Evans – Company Secretary
Jeremy Cross – South Wales Committee Member
Jim Calvert - Company Member Stow Park
Julia Mortimer – Watts Gregory Auditors
Kylie Walker – Company Member Swansea T&SC
Linda Sawyer – Company Member Wrexham TC and North Wales Committee Member
Lucy Scott – Director TW and North Wales Committee Member
Lynda Goodwin – Radyr LTC
Maria Rees – Staff Member (minutes)
Michael Gibson – Incoming Director TW
Mike Dunn - Director TW, South Wales Committee Chair, and Windsor LTC
Mike Harpin – Company Member Bridgend LTC
Neil O'Doherty – Director TW and Incoming Chair
Nigel Jones – South Wales Committee Member and Company Member of Glynneath TC
Nigel Osborne – Incoming Director TW
Pam Alford – Ruthin LTC
Patsy Roseblade – Director TW
Paul Arkontopoulos – Company Member Dinas Powys
Rachel Evans - Company Member Radyr LTC
Simon Johnson – Tennis Wales Chief Executive Officer
Sophie Hughes – Director TW
Stephen Blunt – Company Member Ruthin LTC
Tom Hoyt - Company Member Llanelli TC

The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome

Barry Cawte (BC) welcomed attendees to the virtual Tennis Wales (TW) and for their combined effort during a very difficult period. BC confirmed that this meeting would be his last as TW Chair and thanked everyone for their support over the past 4 years. BC confirmed that during the meeting he would pass the meeting over to the new TW Chair Neil O'Doherty (NO).

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Clarke, members of Usk Tennis Club, Ann Powell, Oliver Scadgell (LTA) and Mike Buck
20 voting Directors and Company Members attended the meeting, with an overall number of votes of 31.

3. Minutes of the AGM of Tennis Wales Ltd held on Saturday 1st May 2021

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were unanimously approved.

4. Annual Report for 2021

Simon Johnson (SJ) thanked BC for his dedication over the past 4 years and for the large amount of work behind the scenes carried out on behalf of Welsh tennis.

SJ confirmed that 2021 had proved to be a big year for tennis and on reflection he was pleased with how the year had ended. SJ stated that he was proud with the way the community had dealt with the implications and demands that COVID had placed on the sport and for successfully implementing their venue risk management to allow tennis to continue.

SJ explained that despite the drop in participation from the previous year when tennis had been one of the only sports operating, club membership had grown in both North and South Wales. SJ confirmed that TW and the LTA would be carrying out a big piece of work to win those lost participants back into tennis in 2022/3.

SJ stated that TW was proud of the superb work being carried out to safeguard tennis in Wales, with all venues having a dedicated welfare officer, and venues were working closely with the TW Safeguarding Officer. SJ requested that his thanks be passed on to all Welfare Officers at TW registered venues for their continued efforts.

SJ confirmed that the Coach Development Centre had proven to be a huge success, with TW now successfully running all tennis qualifications in Wales. 120 Level 1 and Level 2 coaches had been trained, despite the pandemic restrictions.

2021 had seen a cut in funding from the LTA, as the pandemic insurance received in the previous year was not available for 2021.

SJ thanked Sport Wales and Welsh Assembly Government for the additional funding allocated to Tennis Wales and stressed that without this funding TW wouldn't have been able to function as successfully as it had done.

SJ summarised that despite the challenges faced during the year, 2021 was predominantly a positive year and thanked the LTA, Sport Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, and the tennis community for their dedication, support and hard work throughout the year.

5. Audited Accounts for Tennis Wales Ltd and the Finance Director's Report

SJ acknowledged that the auditors Watts Gregory were present for the meeting and would be able to answer any questions on the accounts presented. SJ provided a summary of the audited accounts which were to be formally approved by the Board following the AGM.

SJ explained that as tennis was not active for a third of the year, TW had seen a reduced turnover during 2021. TW had also received a reduction in investment from the LTA for one year only, with money increased for 2022 and 2023. SJ thanked Claire Ewing from Sport Wales for working with the TW team to attract as much investment into TW as possible.

SJ confirmed that the team had saved a large amount of expenditure during the year by carrying out all meetings online and working from home. Though the team were now back on the road and in the office, SJ stated that the pandemic had demonstrated to the team the benefits of carrying out some of their meetings online going forward, therefore reducing the amount of mileage, accommodation, and subsistence.

SJ summarised by confirming that the end of 2021 saw a small surplus, which based on the circumstances and everything the sport had achieved he was very pleased with.

BC thanked SJ, the team and the auditors for their work during 2021.

6. Election of Tennis Wales Non-Executive Directors following external recruitment process

BC reported that Nigel Osborne and Anthony Phillips had been appointed as directors of TW following approval at the South Wales Annual Open Meeting to advertise externally for replacement directors in accordance with TW Article 12.2(1) and 12.3. Both directors would be officially commencing their first three-year term immediately after the AGM.

7. Election of Tennis Wales Non-Executive Director following external recruitment process

BC reported that Michael Gibson had been appointed as directors of TW following approval at the North Wales Annual Open Meeting to advertise externally for replacement a replacement director in accordance with TW Article 12.2(1) and 12.3. MG would be officially commencing his first three-year term immediately after the AGM.

8. Election of Independent Tennis Wales Directors following a formal recruitment process

BC confirmed that Hannah Ward had been recruited by the Board of Directors as an Independent Director for TW following a formal recruitment process.

9. Appointment of Independent Chair following a formal recruitment process

BC confirmed that following a formal recruitment process Neil O'Doherty had been appointed by the TW Board of Director as the Independent Chair of TW. BC congratulated NO on his appointment and wished in the best of luck in the role.

NO confirmed that he was delighted to be appointed in the role and thanked BC on behalf of Tennis Wales, for everything he had achieved in his time as Chair for the organisation and the sport. NO wished BC luck in his new role.

BC left the meeting.

10. President - Tennis Wales Limited

NO congratulated Baroness Amanda Sater (AS) for the impact she had made to TW in her first year as President, and the voting members at the meeting unanimously agreed to her appointed for a second year.

AS reflected on her first year and confirmed that it had been an honour and pleasure to represent TW this year. AS stated, that she had enjoyed visiting the many different venues, events, meeting and speaking to members of the TW community. AS confirmed that the highlight of her year had included the TW Awards ceremony, her visit to a coaching course in Newport and attendance at the Senior Home Nations event in Wrexham, where she had met a large number of Welsh players, coaches and volunteers. AS hoped to travel around Wales more during the next year and thanked members of the TW team for their assistance.

11. Auditors - Tennis Wales Limited

NO thanked Watts Gregory for their valued efforts in the provision of advice and the auditing of the TW accounts and proposed that they be appointed for a further year.

Watts Gregory was unanimously appointed for a further year.

12. 2021-2022 Registration Fees

The attendees noted the 2021-2022 registration fees for Place to Play - £120 per court including Padel (£60 grass courts) capped to 12 courts and £60 per court for LA/Parks and Operators.

13. Transforming Parks

SJ ran through a presentation on the current park's investment project within Wales and the rest of Britain, highlighting that the investment provided by the DCMS and LTA would be a once in a generation opportunity used to attract 1 million more players to the sport by 2024. SJ presented on the impact of park tennis, plans to transform park tennis courts, the existing infrastructure of park courts and driving participation with a sustainable model.

Any of business

NO thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and expressed the gratitude of the Tennis Wales Board to the tennis volunteers, venue members, coaches, players, the LTA, Sport Wales and the TW team.

The meeting concluded at 11:10am